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PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE WORLD
SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
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Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

DRAFT OUTCOME OF THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: DRAFT DECLARATION AND DRAFT PROGRAMME OF ACTION

Contributions of organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

Proposals from the World Food Programme

The World Food Programme has submitted for the consideration of the Preparatory Committee at its third session the annexed proposals for amendments to the draft declaration and draft programme of action (A/CONF.166/PC/L.22). They are submitted to the Preparatory Committee in the language of submission.

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Annex

WFP PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENTS OR ADDITIONS TO THE DRAFT DECLARATION AND DRAFT PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (A/CONF.166/PC/L.22)

Submitted to the Third Session
of the Preparatory Committee
for the World Summit for Social Development
(New York, 16-27 January 1995)

General Comment

We believe that right to food is one of the most fundamental human rights requiring a priority focus in the World Summit for Social Development. An active and healthy life, which cannot come about without adequate food, is the most indispensable pre-requisite for human and social advancement. The Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition adopted in 1974 by the World Food Conference convened under General Assembly Resolution 3180 (XXVIII) of 17 December 1973, and endorsed by General Assembly Resolution 3348 (XXIX) of 17 December 1974 recognizes that the elimination of hunger and malnutrition and the elimination of the causes that determine this situation are the common objectives of all nations. We are of the view that the Draft Declaration and Draft Programme of Action would benefit from some modifications and additions to give due recognition to the right to food and issues related to the exercise of this right in the agenda for social development and human well-being.

Furthermore, in our view, the core of a strategy for social development should focus strongly on human resource development (HRD) that includes activities relating to education, training, socialization, empowerment, health improvement, nutrition and physical and mental security. Such issues are raised in different places in the draft documents, but, it would have been useful to combine all HRD issues into a single pillar for the programme of action. In the present circumstances, we propose some additions to the sections on "Principles and Goals" and "Commitments", which we regard as crucial to bring about a stronger focus on HRD.

We also consider that it would be useful to include at the beginning of the document a concise section that gives an idea of what is generally agreed upon as "social development". Such a section, which, perhaps, may be included in Part I of the document, would provide a common reference point that ties together the varied aspects of the problems and the ambitious commitments that are discussed in the subsequent sections.

On reading the document as a whole, there is, perhaps, a sense that too much reliance is placed on external assistance vis-a-vis national resource mobilization and re-setting of national priorities; and, a similar sense that the role of government is, perhaps, too ubiquitous vis-a-vis that of civil society. The adjustments to the text to address these concerns might be taken up when the draft of the document is being finalized.

(Note: The modifications and additions proposed by WFP are in underlined bold letters. We also make references to the amendments and additions suggested by FAO, which we have indicated in italics).

DRAFT DECLARATION

Para 2:

2. " We acknowledge that the peoples of the world have shown in different ways an urgent need to address profound social problems especially poverty **and hunger**, unemployment and social exclusion that affects every country. It is our task to address both their underlying causes and their distressing consequences in order to reduce uncertainty and insecurity in the life of people."

PART I

A. CURRENT SOCIAL SITUATION AND REASONS FOR CONVENING THE SUMMIT

Para 14:

(We find that the present sequencing of the sub-items in para 14 does not give appropriate priority to the most pressing social problems. We suggest that the sub-sections in para 14 be re-arranged in the following manner):

14. " Yet we recognize that many people in the world are affected by growing distress:"

(a) " More than 1 billion people in the world live in abject poverty, **most of whom** go hungry every day. A large proportion of men and women, particularly in Africa and the least developed countries, have very limited **(DELETE: " or no")** access to income and resources;"

(b) " Over 120 million people worldwide are officially unemployed, and many more remain underemployed. Too many young people including those with formal education see little hope in finding productive work;"

(Note: Unemployment and underemployment are profoundly important issues that go to the heart of social development. Arriving at reasonable estimates of unemployment and underemployment is wrought with definitional and measurement problems. Stating the number who are "officially" unemployed as indicated above in the text may tend to downplay their importance. The world labour force is around 45 percent of the world population, as indicated in the World Development Report 1991. Hence, an official unemployment figure of 120 million suggests that, globally, the unemployment rate is less than 5 percent. It may be more helpful, therefore, to make a qualitative statement on this issue.)

(c) " Far too many people, particularly women, increasingly face vulnerability, isolation, marginalization, violence and insecurity about the future - their own and their children's - as poverty, unemployment and social disintegration seem to become pervasive and mutually reinforcing features of the contemporary world;"

(d) " Within many societies, both in industrialized and developing countries, the gap between rich and poor has increased. Further, the gap between most developing and developed countries has widened, even more so in the case of the least developed countries;"

(e) " There are serious social problems and problems of transition in countries experiencing fundamental and democratic changes in their political systems."

Para 16:

(We support the modification proposed by FAO, as given below in italics):

16. " The goals and objectives of social development require continuous efforts to reduce and eliminate major sources of social distress. Particular focus should be given to *chronic hunger and malnutrition*, communicable diseases, organized crime, drug abuse, drug trafficking and related criminality, armed conflict and terrorism. In this context, the negative impact, upon development, of the production and trade in arms must be acted upon."

B. PRINCIPLES AND GOALS

(Note: We believe that an unequivocal commitment to uphold the right to food is a basic principle and promoting action to ensure this right is an important goal to pursue in all national and international efforts in social development and human welfare. Further, we believe that a strong commitment to human resource development is an important principle and promoting action to ensure progress in human resource development is an important goal to pursue. Hence, we suggest the addition of the following sub-sections in between sub-sections (h) and (i)):

Para 20:

(i) "Recognize that right to food is fundamental to human development and that elimination of hunger is a priority ethical and moral obligation of civil society; promote effective and sustainable measures for ensuring food security for all, especially among the most vulnerable."

(j) "Recognize that human resource development is a crucial pre-requisite to achieve social development; promote national and local goals for meeting minimum standards of literacy, health, nutrition and physical and mental security for all"

Part II

COMMITMENTS

Commitment 1

(Add the following as a new sub-section (d)):

(g) "**Provide social safety nets for those segments of the population whose scanty physical and human resource endowments constrain their gainful participation in economic activity; promote policy measures and investments that would lead to the removal of these constrains and bring about sustainable self-reliance.**"

Commitment 2

(Include the following modification in the introductory statement):

"We commit ourselves to the goal of eradicating **hunger and** poverty in the world, through decisive national actions and international cooperation, as a moral, political and economic imperative of human kind."

(We suggest that the phrase, "address the root causes of poverty and", in sub-section (b) should be taken out and placed in the sub-section (c), as shown in following modification):

(b) " Focus our efforts and policies to (delete: address the root causes of poverty and) provide for the basic needs of all. This includes the elimination of hunger and malnutrition, and the provision of primary health care and reproductive health/family planning, safe drinking water and basic sanitation, universal primary education, and adequate shelter; and give special priority to the needs of women and children who bear the greatest burdens of poverty."

(c) "**Formulate policies and take action to address the root causes of poverty. This includes measures to** ensure that people living in poverty have access to land, credit, information and other productive resources, and benefit from a policy and regulatory environment that enhances their overall capacities and empowers them to benefit from expanding employment and economic opportunities;"

Commitment 3

(We endorse the modifications suggested by FAO that emphasize the issue of low returns to small scale rural economic activity. In the same vein, we suggest a modification to sub-section (b) that relates to the role of physical rural infrastructure for increasing the efficiency and the comparative advantage of rural sector production activities:)

(b) "Develop policies to expand work opportunities and productivity in both rural and urban sectors by investing substantially in the development of human resources, **by creating adequate infrastructure such as roads, irrigation and communication**

facilities through state investments and community self-help, by promoting technologies that *increase productivity and incomes, reduce labour bottlenecks and* generate *additional* employment, and by encouraging self-employment and small enterprise development;

(Note: the modifications given in italics are those suggested by FAO)

Commitment 4

(We endorse the addition suggested by FAO in sub-section (b) as indicated in italics below):

(b) "Ensure the protection and full integration of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and individuals, including *women and* children, the elderly and people with disabilities;"

Commitment 5

(We endorse the addition suggested by FAO in sub-section (d) as indicated in italics below):

(d) "Encourage the ratification, removal of reservations, and implementation of all provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and other relevant instruments, and implementation of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women *and the Beijing Platform for Action.*"

Commitment 6

(We suggest the following modification in the introduction):

"We commit ourselves to promoting the economic, social and human resource development of African and other least developed countries."

(We endorse the addition by FAO, shown in italics below, in sub-section (a) and suggest the inclusion of commodity assistance as a specific form of assistance):

(a) "Support economic reforms, *programmes for increased food security*, and commodity diversification efforts of African (DELETE:"countries") and other least developed countries through technical cooperation, trade, food and other commodity aid, and financial assistance;"

(Note: In several places in the document, the words, "Africa and the least developed countries" are found. We suggest that this should be modified to read as: "African and other least developed countries").

Commitment 7

(We suggest the following amendment on the same lines as the FAO suggestion in sub-

section (c)):

(c) "Reinforce social development objectives of all adjustment policies and programmes, including those resulting from economic transition, globalization and rapid change, through policies designed to enhance food security and other safety nets to protect the most vulnerable groups from the adverse effects of economic reforms and to promote equitable access to income and resources."

Commitment 8

(This commitment mentions the need to "increase significantly and utilize more efficiently the resources assigned to social development...". The basic issue is one of budgetary allocations, and in particular, increasing the share of available resources allocated to social development. It is not clear how activities mentioned in sub-sections (b), (c) and (d) would result in an increased share of resources even though they may result in an increase in the overall level available. We suggest the modification of sub-sections (b) in the following manner):

(b) "Implement macroeconomic and structural policies to ensure stable and sustainable growth to support incremental resource requirements for social development."

(We suggest the deletion of the present sub-section (c) and replacing it with the present sub-section (d) modified as suggested below):

(c) "Ensure that taxation systems are fair and economically efficient, (DELETE: based on larger contributions from those people and business enterprises which have greater capacity to pay,) and ensure effective collection of tax liabilities, which could facilitate increased use of resources for social development expenditures."

(Furthermore there is no sub-section that addresses the issue of utilization. We suggest the addition of the following new sub-section (d)):

(d) "Support effective and cost-efficient programmes aimed at providing at least the minimum levels of education, vocational training, health, nutrition and physical welfare."

PROGRAMME OF ACTION

(We suggest the following modifications in the introductory paras 2 and 3 to emphasize the need to respond to the biological imperative of hunger in a programme of action for social development:)

2. "Actions are recommended to create an environment favourable to social development, to eradicate hunger and poverty, to enhance productive....."

3. "Many of the issues mentioned in this Programme have been addressed in greater detail by previous world conferences concerned with questions such as food security

and nutrition, the status of women, the....."

I. AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

(We support the FAO suggestion to modify para 5 as follows:)

BASIS FOR ACTION AND OBJECTIVES

5. "The economies and societies of the world are becoming increasingly interdependent. Trade and capital flows, migrations, scientific and technological innovations, communications and cultural changes, are shaping the global community. The same global community is threatened by environmental degradation, *severe food crises*, epidemics....."

II. ERADICATION OF POVERTY

ACTIONS

A. The formulation of integrated strategies

(We suggest the addition of the following sub-sections between the present (b) and (c) in para 23):

Para 23:

(c) "Recognizing the need to compensate for the loss of time and income needed for day to day survival of the poor when they have to engage in development of skills and assets required for moving out of poverty, and providing such compensation to promote developmental work through food and other income transfers;"

Para 24:

(We support the FAO's suggestion to add an additional sub-points between (d) and (e) as follows:

"Effective mechanisms to reduce the incidence and mitigate the effects of natural disasters such as droughts, earthquakes and floods, on vulnerable groups of the population."

Para 26:

(We suggest the following modifications to bring out the need to focus on "Hunger"):

"There is a need to monitor and assess poverty and hunger reduction policies and promote understanding and awareness of poverty and hunger and their causes and consequences by).

(b) "Monitoring the achievement of goals and targets, evaluating quantitatively and qualitatively, changes in poverty and hunger, persistence of....."

Para 27:

(Following modifications are suggested for the same reason as given above):

"The international community should support the efforts of countries to reduce and eradicate poverty and hunger by:"

(a) "Supporting the measures being taken in the developing countries, particularly in African and other least developed countries, to reduce and eradicate poverty and hunger, provide..."

(b) "Strengthening the capacities of developing countries to monitor poverty and hunger and to assess the impact of...."

(c) "Addressing the special needs of small island developing countries with respect to eradicating poverty and hunger."

(d) "Supporting the countries with economics in transition and societies disrupted by conflict in their efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger and their social rebuild... "

C. Meeting the basic needs of all

Para 32:

(We support the FAO's suggestion to insert the following new sub-sections between existing sub-sections (a) and (b)):

(b) "*ensuring the physical and economic access by all to adequate food to lead active and healthy lives, with particular efforts to facilitate access by those who are most vulnerable;*"

(c) "*Ensuring that food is not used as a tool for political pressure. Food aid must not be denied because of political affiliation, geographical location, gender, age, ethnic, tribal or religious identity;*"

D. Enhanced social protection and reduced vulnerability

(We suggest the following addition to para 33, as sub-item (i), in keeping with the resolutions of the International Conference on Nutrition):

Para 33:

(i) "Substantial reduction of death by famine by the year 2000";

Para 37:

(We believe that prevention, preparedness and relief are key elements in the continuum from relief to development. Hence, we suggest the following modifications to sub-section (a) in para 37):

(a) " Developing long-term strategies and contingency plans for famine and disaster **prevention, preparedness (including early** warning, assessment, information dissemination and management) and relief (**including rapid response strategies**), **that ensure the quick evolution of relief activities** into rehabilitation and development;"

(We fully support the FAO amendments to sub-section (C) in para 37, as given below):

(c) " Developing, in disaster-prone areas and in cooperation with community organizations, *drought and flood mitigation practices and* resource conservation *and infrastructure-building* programmes, *using food-for-work where appropriate and* incorporating traditional disaster-response practices, which can be rapidly expanded into emergency employment and rebuilding programmes in disaster situations;"

(Note: Sub-section (f) in para 37 is written in reference to the general issue of eradicating world hunger, whereas, para 37 focuses on the specific issue of disasters. **We, therefore, recommend the deletion of the present sub-section (f) from para 37.** In the event of a decision to include this sub-section in para 37, we **strongly recommend** that the phrase, " Developing **new** mechanisms", be replaced by the phrase, "Developing **complementary** mechanisms" (because, the word "new" in the context it is presently used can give the connotation that all the existing mechanisms, those of the UN system and the civil society, are irreparably flawed), and replacing the phrase, "in the fight to eradicate world hunger" with the phrase, "**to respond to disaster and emergencies**" (in keeping with the recent UN resolution on the role of the "White Helmets" in emergencies).

III. PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND THE REDUCTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT

ACTIONS

A. The centrality of employment-intensive growth in policy formulation

Para 46:

(We see a clear link between targeted poverty alleviation programmes and stimulating employment-intensive growth. WE suggest the addition of new sub-section (f) to be inserted between present sub-sections (e) and (f));

(f) "**Using the most abundant asset of people who are poor and hungry in labour-intensive work programmes, including through food-for-work programmes, to create the physical assets required to promote self-reliance and sustainable income-earning opportunities).**"

B. Education, training and labour policies

(We suggest the following modification to Para 48):

48. "Enabling people to move into employment in today's rapidly changing global environment and for workers to move from low productivity to better quality jobs, requires:"

(Education is a central factor in enabling the poor and hungry to strengthen their coping mechanisms and break-out of the cycle of poverty. We believe that given the opportunity women are key to change. The poor and vulnerable, especially women, should be promoted as agents for changing their own lives and building self-reliance. This has to be made explicit b including new sub-section (b) between present sub-sections (a) and (b)):

(b) "Facilitating access by the poor, especially girl children, to at least the minimum levels of education which will often require enabling mechanisms such as free education, school meals and primary health interventions"

IV. SOCIAL INTEGRATION

E. Equitable treatment and integration of migrants, migrant workers, refugees and displaced persons

((Most refugees and displaced persons live among the host populations and not in camps. Often, especially in developing countries, these host populations are as poor or poorer than the refugees and the internally displaced persons. In addition, refugees and internally displaced persons live in these circumstances for protracted periods. Assistance is often needed to support the host populations; and, assistance is needed to help prepare long-term refugees and internally displaced persons for eventual resettlement and integration. We suggest, therefore, a new sub-section (g) to be inserted between the existing sub-sections (g) and (h)):

(h) "Providing assistance to populations who are often poor themselves and take up the additional burden of hosting refugees and internally displaced persons; and, providing assistance, particularly in the form of training programmes, to facilitate their rehabilitation and reintegration."

V. IMPLEMENTATION AND FOLLOW-UP

A. National strategies

(We suggest the following modifications in para 73):

(a) "Analysing and reviewing macroeconomic and sectoral policies and their impact on poverty and hunger, employment..."

(c) "Defining time-bound goals and targets for reducing overall poverty **and hunger** and eradicating...."

(g) "Developing quantitative and qualitative social indicators to assess poverty **and hunger**, employment...."

C. Mobilization of financial and other resources

(Note: We have added the words "and other" as shown above to allow for resources that come in the form of commodities)

Para 78:

(d) Giving high priority in ODA to the eradication of poverty **and hunger** in developing countries..."

Para 80:

"In order to ensure that structural adjustment programmes promote social development goals, including the eradication of poverty **and hunger**, the generation...."